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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **NISHIUCHI, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 1763

Serial No.: 10/615,381

Examiner: **BUEKER, Richard R.**

Filed: **July 9, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1378

**FOR: SURFACE TREATING PROCESS, SURFACE TREATING APPARATUS,
VAPOR-DEPOSITING MATERIAL, AND RARE EARTH METAL-BASED
PERMANENT MAGNET WITH SURFACE TREATED**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 21, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the document listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the document is attached, along with a copy of an Office Action issued in the corresponding Chinese patent application with an English translation thereof.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Office Action issued in Chinese patent application (w/English translation)
PTO-1449
Reference (1)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 000593B	Serial No. 10/615,381
	Applicant(s): NISHIUCHI, et al.	
	Filing Date: July 9, 2003	Group Art Unit: 1734

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA					
_____	AB					
_____	AC					
_____	AD					
_____	AE					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____ AF 62-149054	7/03/87	China	Abstract only
_____ AG			
_____ AH			
_____ AI			
_____ AJ			

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____ AK	
_____ AL	
Examiner	Date Considered